

HONORING RETIRING EVANS TOWN
COUNCILMAN TOM CSATI**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated elected official from the town of Evans who has served with distinction as a member of his Town Board. I am speaking of retiring Evans Town Councilman Tom Csati.

Tom Csati is a strong leader who worked hard to get things done in Evans and Angola. A member of the Town Board for 8 years, Tom Csati is a public servant who always put people first. The town of Evans and its residents are better for the service he provided, and I am proud to honor his service here today.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 125TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE INCARNATE WORD**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the University of the Incarnate Word, an institution of higher education in San Antonio, Texas that serves students from Texas, as well as throughout the United States and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the University of the Incarnate Word evolved when three sisters went to San Antonio to help serve people in need of health care and children in need of homes.

After founding several hospitals and two orphanages, the sisters established Incarnate Word School, which began as an elementary and secondary school but has blossomed into a university that has a campus in Mexico City and one in China.

The university's service is based on the belief in God, their love for God, and their desire to serve God's people.

The university is also celebrating the 20th anniversary of Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr. as president of the university. He is a great leader and his long service is a testament to the dedication of the school.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the privilege of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the University of the Incarnate Word and the 20th anniversary of Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr. as president.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE
EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 467, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, TRIA. The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001, shook the Nation, caused enormous grief, and strengthened

the country's resolve. Congress pledged to do all we could to help the victims' families and to write policy that would help in the aftermath if such an attack ever occurs again.

One tangible way Congress can help is to make sure that businesses can afford terrorism insurance; to do this, we must reauthorize TRIA. Before the terrorist attacks of 9/11, most insurers offered terrorism insurance. Between 9/11 and the signing of TRIA in 2002, it was estimated that more than \$15 billion in real estate transactions had been canceled or put on hold because owners and investors could not obtain the insurance protection they needed. TRIA, a public/private partnership, protects consumers, keeps an engine of our society going, and respects state regulation of insurance.

As cochair of the New Democrat Coalition, I have long believed that TRIA has worked well for individuals, businesses large and small, and our country. I am proud that the NDC has been a leader on this issue, and I am pleased that Speaker HASTERT has responded to the letter our coalition sent to him earlier this year, urging him to bring TRIA to the Floor. TRIA is scheduled to expire at the end of this month, but Mr. Speaker, threat of terror has not expired.

I plan on supporting this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican plan to cut billions of dollars in services for the most vulnerable people in our country while giving away billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans—the so-called "budget reconciliation package."

This plan will harm low-income children and seniors, students, working parents and local government. It is an appalling plan that I oppose on both policy grounds as well as moral grounds. Denying access to food stamps to our poorest families is cruel and immoral when we live in a generous country of abundance.

The Republican budget reconciliation bill also makes significant cuts to Medicaid, a critical program serving children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Republicans propose to cut \$11.4 billion from Medicaid, primarily through imposing increased costs on families which will result in decreased access to care. At a time when health care costs and the number of uninsured families in our country are increasing, this proposal is both unwise and unfair.

The Republican plan also cuts \$14.3 billion from student loan programs, which will make higher education more expensive and less accessible at a time when our nation should be focused on educating and training a highly skilled workforce to compete globally. An investment in higher education is an investment in our future. The Republicans have chosen instead to ignore this reality and balance their mismanaged budget on the backs of students and families.

It is also extremely disappointing that the Republicans chose to include their punitive reauthorization of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families in this bill. This plan increases work requirements and sanctions while severely underfunding child care. In order to work, families need access to safe, affordable child care. We know that Congress needs to fund child care at \$7 billion in order match the new rigid work requirements, yet this bill provides an inadequate \$1.3 billion. Families want to work but that is not possible if there is not safe, affordable child care available. In addition, the leadership has included a cut to child support enforcement funding in this package, which will make it more difficult for families to access the resources they need to care for their children.

My opposition also extends to the Republican desire to cut \$70 billion in taxes, primarily for investors and the wealthy, while adding over \$20 billion to the federal budget deficit. Rewarding the rich, punishing the poor and passing the cost on to the next generation is a disgraceful way to lead this nation. I will vote against this Republican reconciliation package and I urge my colleagues to join me.

HONORING RETIRING ELMA TOWN
COUNCILMAN BILL CIROCCO**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated elected official from the Town of Elma, Bill Cirocco.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I like most of my colleagues represent a large number of different communities. All told, I represent all or part of 19 towns and 2 cities in Erie County, as well as 27 towns and 2 cities in Chautauqua County. But Elma is a very important town in my district it's where my parents live.

It's that closeness that I have to Elma that leads me to commemorate Bill's service to Elma. As a public official, Bill always had the best interests of his constituents—his neighbors—first in his mind. As time went on, and as battles were waged in town about this issue or that, Bill Cirocco always looked at each issue individually and kept the residents and taxpayers first in his mind.

Now, as Bill contemplates retirement from elective office, I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated service to Elma, and to the people who live, work and raise their families there. Elma is a better place for his service to the town, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to honor Bill's service.

TRIBUTE TO JUAN ARECHIGA, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Juan Arechiga, Sr., a decorated World War II veteran and lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas who passed away Saturday, December 3, 2005.